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Letter dated 30 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 1 June 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 31 May as well as on 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 22 and 27 June 1999, as well as to violations of the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military vessels recorded on 14 June 1999.

On 31 May 1999, one C-130 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1242 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 1315 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 8 June 1999, two F-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, returning afterwards to the FIR of Ankara.

On 11 and 12 June 1999, 14 F-16 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

Also on 12 June, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 0910 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 0958 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 13 June 1999, 10 F-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before eight of them returned to the FIR of Ankara. The remaining two F-4 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Limassol before exiting.

On 14 June 1999 at 0545 hours, two military vessels of the Turkish Navy (of type "DOGAN"), which were participating in the military exercise "DENIZ-KURDU", violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus North of Cavo Greco, sailing parallel to the Cypriot coastline towards the closed port of Famagusta.

On 15 June 1999, four F-16 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 June 1999, one C-160, one CN-235 and four F-16 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The four F-16 aircraft returned to the Ankara FIR. The C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas, before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1653 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 1815 hours of the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 18 June 1999, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before returning to the Ankara FIR. On the same day, two Turkish military helicopters took off from two Turkish military vessels and entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations, before landing back on the vessels.

On 22 June 1999, one B-200 and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The B-200 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1136 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The two F-4 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

On 27 June 1999, 12 F-16, three C-160 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The 12 F-16 and three C-160 aircraft exited thereafter in a southeasterly direction. The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Apostolos Andreas in a search and rescue role.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time are in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, including the violation of Cyprus's territorial waters, which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once again, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1251 (1999), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998 within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force and the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative